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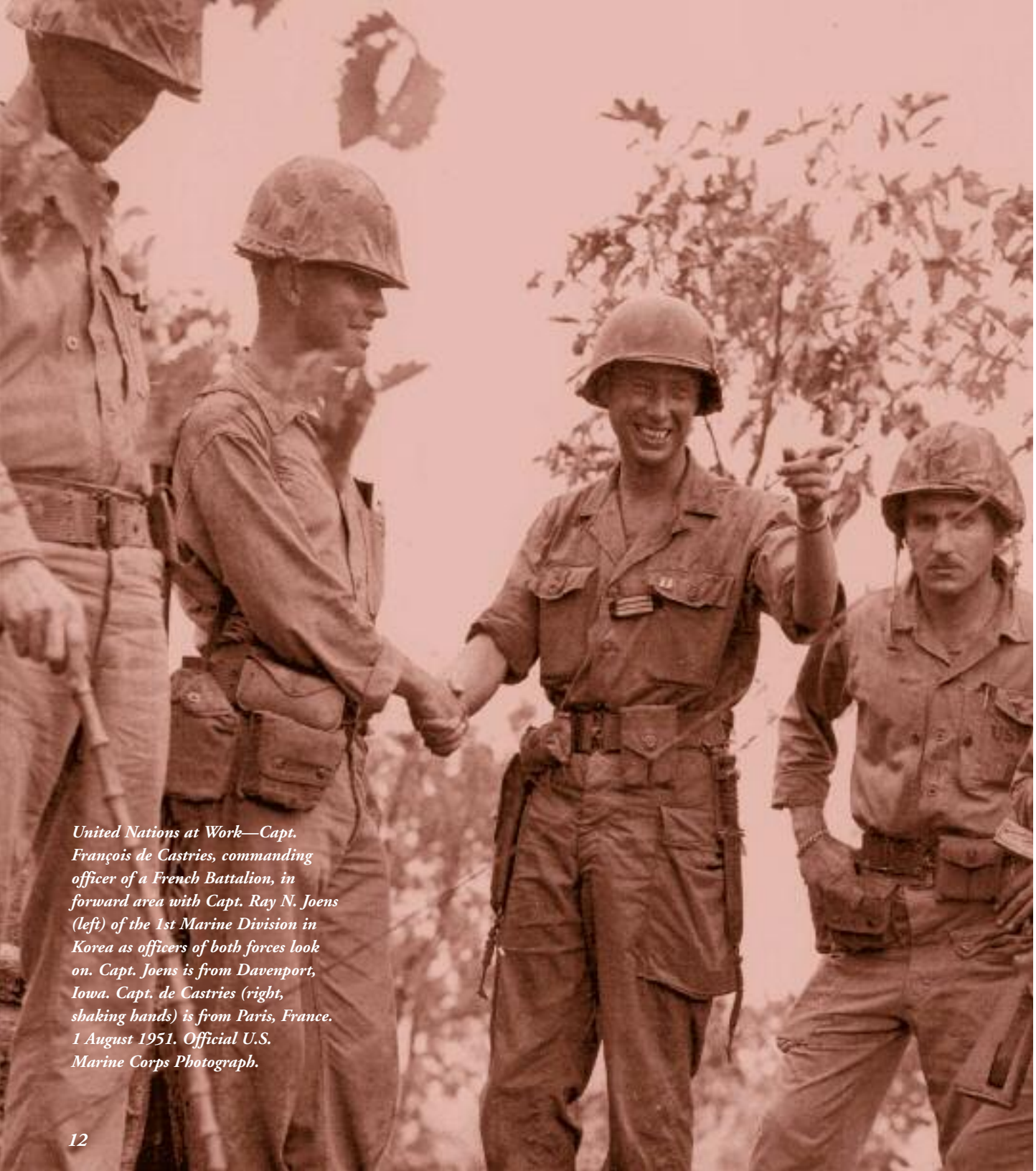


United Nations at Work—Capt. François de Castries, commanding officer of a French Battalion, in forward area with Capt. Ray N. Joens (left) of the 1st Marine Division in Korea as officers of both forces look on. Capt. Joens is from Davenport, Iowa. Capt. de Castries (right, shaking hands) is from Paris, France. 1 August 1951. Official U.S. Marine Corps Photograph.

HISTORIC ALLIES IN KOREA

Comte François de Castries

It is not only a pleasure, but an honor, for me to introduce this account of military assistance rendered America in Korea by France, written by Comte François de Castries, former President of La Société de France, a good friend to so many of us Americans and a most distinguished Cincinnatian. Few members of the Society embody the historic connection between France and the United States better than he. His propositus, Charles-Eugene-Gabriel de la Croix, marquis de Castries, was minister of the marine during the latter stages of the American Revolutionary War, overseeing the French Navy during the critical period when French maritime power was essential to the achievement of American independence. The minister's son, Armand-Charles-Augustin de la Croix de Castries, comte de Charlus, served with distinction as a second colonel under Rochambeau in the Yorktown campaign.

These were not the last members of the family to make common cause with Americans in the cause of freedom. Comte François de Castries served with extraordinary bravery in some of the hardest fighting of the Korean War, for which he was awarded the Silver Star. His memories of the war, published as "Le Bataillon Français de Corée Ou La Guerre Oubliée," make exciting reading. His wartime accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. The following account of the "Battalion de Corée" is based on his recollections.

—Reuben Grove Clark, Jr., President General 1986-89

Shortly after the North Korean army invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, French soldiers took their place beside the U.S. Army in defense of freedom. France had sent most of its army to contain the Vietminh in Indochina, but the French government quickly assembled a volunteer group of veterans, ex-legionnaires and fresh recruits to serve on the Korean peninsula.

The "Battalion de Corée" trained at Camp d'Auvours, east of Le Mans, during September and October 1950. On November 29 the eleven hundred men of the battalion arrived with the ship La Grandière at the port of Pusan on the south coast of the peninsula. The exploits of these French troops, and of the French volunteers later sent to take their place, deeply impressed the Americans.

The men of the French Battalion were attached to the 23rd Infantry combat regiment of the prestigious 2nd Division of the American 8th Army, also known as the "Indian Head Division." This division had distinguished itself in France in 1917 and again in 1944, when it landed on the beaches of Normandy to begin the liberation of France from Nazi oppression. The division later fought in the Ardennes.

American soldiers closely scrutinized the French battalion. The Americans had been fighting for months, and wondered how these new arrivals would react when confronted with difficult situations. They soon found out. The first weeks presented a major test for both French and Americans. The temperature in Korea in the middle of January 1951 fell as low as thirty degrees below zero, with about 12 to 14 inches of snow on the ground. Frostbite became the second enemy. French troops dealt with the frigid temperatures more effectively than the Americans did. An observer on the scene at Wonju at this time found the reason was the way in which the French made their foxholes, noting that:

"While the American soldier scoops out a hollow wallow for himself and then crowds into it, chilled and miserable, the Frenchman goes to earth like a fox. He digs a deep round hole just large enough for his body and his weapon to poke out comfortably, then a few feet down he begins to widen out. He digs his subterranean chamber big enough to lie in it at his ease. He lays a deep

Major General Edward M. Almond (left), Commanding General X Corps, awards Silver Star Medal to CAPT François de la Croix de Castries (right), French Brigade, serving with X Corps, during ceremonies held at X Corps Headquarters, Korea. 10 February 1951. U.S. Army Photo by CPL George Dunn (SK).

carpet of rice straw on the bottom, and then he cuts a shelf into one side for his groceries and lays his grenades and his extra ammunition so that they will be close at hand. Lower down he cuts another shelf and here he builds a little fire and warms his food…He places a poncho over the top to keep out the smoke and through the poncho he puts a cardboard container which serves as a stove pipe."

The commander of the French was 59-year-old General Magrin-Vernerey, a tough former Legionnaire, who had been wounded seventeen times and wore the highest decorations France could bestow on a soldier. He decided to use his nom de guerre, Ralph Monclar, a moniker from his days in the Resistance. Monclar sported a black beret, limped with a cane, and wore his steel rimmed spectacles down his nose. Since the American military regulations called for a lieutenant colonel to head a regiment, Monclar dropped four stars in order to become the leader of French ground forces in Korea.

Monclar and his men joined the fighting during one of the most ferocious Chinese offensives of the war. In early January 1951, 500,000 Chinese troops drove the allies south of the 38th Parallel, capturing Seoul. The French advocated the use of the bayonet to meet the Chinese onslaught, and used it successfully to push the enemy back at Wonju on January 10. There they suffered their first casualties. The French attached their own needle-sharp bayonet spears to the American recoilless rifles that had been issued to them. After several successful bayonet charges, General Ridgway commented that "the French have demonstrated that the bayonet can be used for more than a bottle of jam."

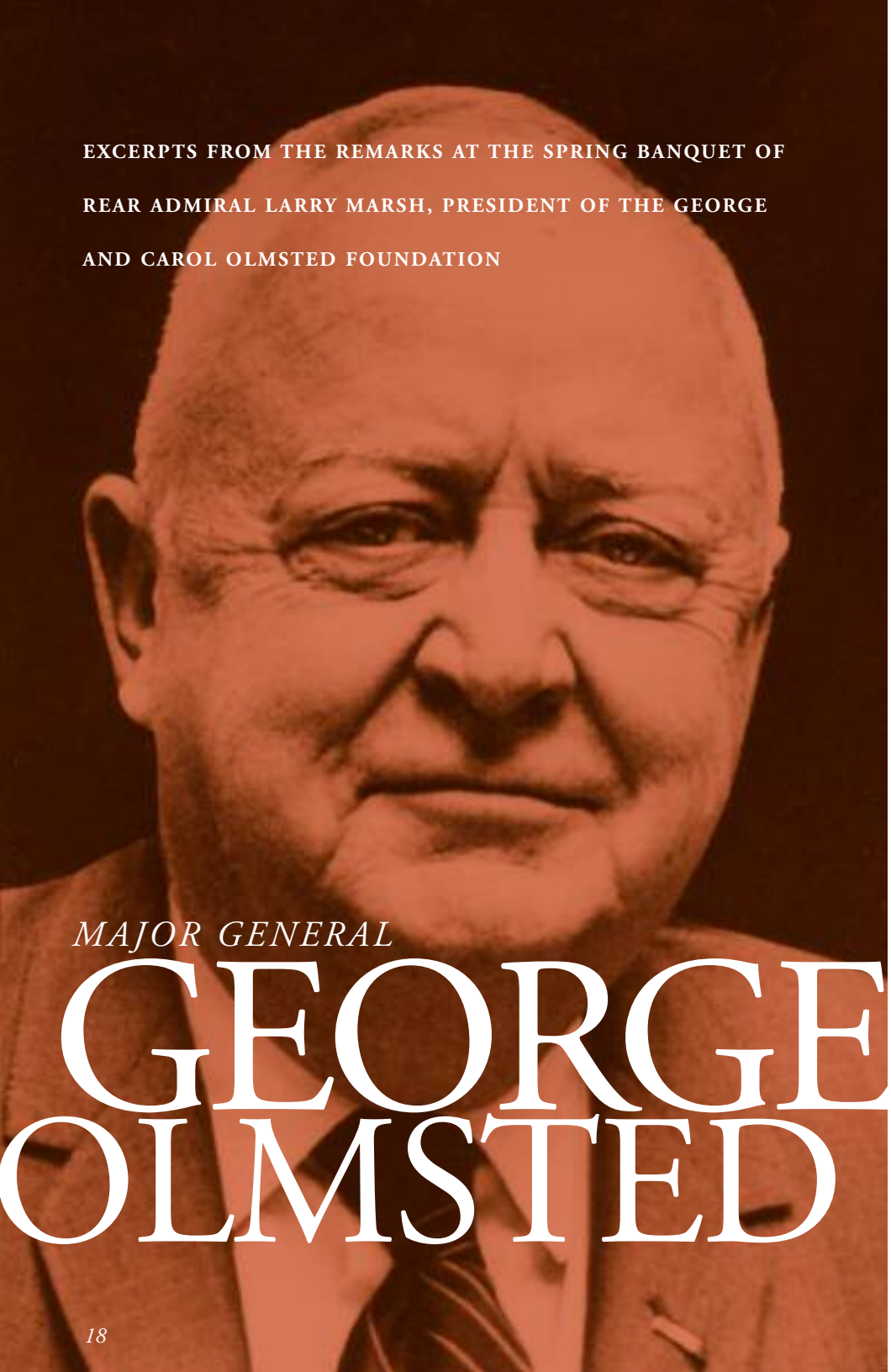
On February 1-2, 1951, at the Twin Tunnels, the French unit won a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation for bravery as well as a French Army unit award. They held Hill 453 in hand-to-hand confrontations, then threw the enemy back with a bayonet charge. Col. Paul Freeman, an American officer, described the scene:

"Despite their casualties, wave after wave of fanatical Chinese continued to surge during the next three hours to attempt to seize the dominating ground. The gallant French 1st Company was finally engaged in hand to hand fighting and suffered heavy casualties… With their position becoming almost untenable, the desperate French counter-attacked with bayonet. The Chinese—with victory almost in their grasp—a victory which had they attained would have jeopardized our entire position—pulled back."

At Chipyon-ni, from February 3 to 16, 1951, the French again attacked bayonet-bearing Chinese with grenades, bayonets, and a hand-cranked siren. This time General Douglas McArthur presented the awards in person. The French Battalion distinguished itself for courage once more at Hongchon, where from March 3 to 5, the French alone secured Hill 1037 at a cost of forty men killed and 200 wounded. The French Battalion later supported other units at Heartbreak Ridge and prevented flank attacks by the enemy.

Unlike U.S. units, French troops were rotated as units and replaced with fresh troops. The original battalion departed in the winter of 1951, and each year another battalion left and was replaced. This change in troops was a factor in the high morale of the French in Korea. The French forces' strength peaked at 1,185 soldiers. The French suffered some 262 killed and some 1,300 wounded in action, out of a total of about 3,500 Frenchmen who served in action between 1951 and 1953, a casualty rate of about 44%—a testament to the bravery of historic allies who joined American troops for some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

Marlena C. DeLong, a scholar of French-American history at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, contributed to this story.



EXCERPTS FROM THE REMARKS AT THE SPRING BANQUET OF REAR ADMIRAL LARRY MARSH, PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGE AND CAROL OLMSTED FOUNDATION

MAJOR GENERAL

GEORGE OLMSTED

General Olmsted graduated with high honors as Class Captain from West Point in 1922. After one and a half years of active duty, the young Olmsted was transferred to the active Army Reserves. Back home in Des Moines, Iowa, General Olmsted began building a corporate enterprise, which would eventually include interests ranging from a palm oil factory in Africa and banking throughout the world, to insurance in Des Moines and manufacturing in Ohio and Indiana.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, General Olmsted returned to active duty, initially serving in the War Department in North Africa. Then, in 1943, he was sent to China, where he organized a network of factories and supply routes in caves along China's rivers. As the war neared an end, he was challenged with devising a plan for the delicate rescue of Allied POWs, many of whom had been incarcerated in China for most of the war. He decided to surprise Japanese camp commanders by dropping leaflets on the day of Japan's surrender, letting them know that they would be held personally responsible for the safety of the prisoners. The leaflets were followed by seven-man teams armed only with documents which ordered camp commanders to surrender. The plan was successful.

His time in China, where it was necessary for him to interact with both Chinese and Japanese officials, convinced General Olmsted that American military leaders suffered from a lack of exposure and sensitivity to foreign cultures. It was this belief, together with a lifelong dedication to the security of the nation, that led him to establish the Olmsted Scholar Program. The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation established the Olmsted Scholar Program in 1959 in cooperation with, and with the support of, the Department of Defense and the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, with the first Scholars selected in that year for study overseas beginning in 1960.

With the passing years, the Olmsted Scholar Program has been enlarged so that each year at least three officers from each service are tendered a grant to expand their total educational opportunities during two years of study overseas. The theme for the Program might well be "Know Your Neighbor." Fundamental to the initial purpose of creating the scholarship program is the conviction that the greatest leaders must be educated broadly.

The concept encompasses the vision of young military officers and their families immersing themselves in a foreign culture while the officer studies in a foreign language in a liberal arts field of his or her choice. In the years following this period of foreign study a scholar may seek a

graduate degree; although such action is not required by the Foundation, it is encouraged, in concert with the military departments. In later years, the background and experience gained by the officer should be highly beneficial to their performance on higher echelon staffs or in assignments requiring continuing contact with citizens of the nation in which they studied, in particular, and with citizens of other countries in general. A major bonus is the fact that the Scholar's family shares this experience.

General Olmsted was a member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati. His devotion to the Society of the Cincinnati was reflected in the grant of $1,000,000 to the Society over a period of twenty years, and the Society's appreciation was expressed in the dedication of the Olmsted Gallery on the second floor of Anderson House.

General Olmsted and his wife, Carol Olmsted, were directors of The George and Carol Olmsted Foundation from its inception. They were actively engaged in the management of its affairs, particularly the Olmsted Scholar Program. Mrs. Olmsted passed away in September 1993 and General Olmsted died after a long illness in October 1998. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. His marvelous legacy continues with a unique program that remains stronger than ever after four decades of resounding success.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY HONORS THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

Robert Mosby Turnbull,
Secretary, Virginia Society

A plaque honoring the Virginia Society has been installed at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA. Citing the contribution of the Virginia Society to the school in 1802, the plaque was mounted in Washington Hall, the main administration building on the Colonnade. W&L traces its roots to Liberty Hall Academy, founded in 1749, and is the ninth oldest college in the United States. The plaque will be dedicated to the Virginia Society on October 21, 2003. Jay Wayne Jackson and Robert Fillmore Norfleet, Jr., President General and Vice President General, respectively, and both graduates of Washington and Lee University, will participate in the ceremony.

The plaque reads: "*In 1783 officers of the Continental Army and French officers who served with them during the American Revolution founded the Society of the Cincinnati. Established in each of the thirteen states and in France, the Society was named after Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, the Roman citizen-soldier who in 458 B.C. triumphed in battle, laid down his arms, and returned to his fields and plow. George Washington served as the first President General of the Society. Inspired by Washington, who in 1796 had given his stock in the James River Company to Liberty Hall Academy, the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia decided in 1802 to donate its treasury to the successor institution, Washington Academy.*
This memorial gift, together with the Washington legacy and the benefaction of John Robinson, formed the financial foundation of the institution during the nineteenth century. This plaque honors the Virginia Society for its generous support. OMNIA RELIQUIT SERVARE REMPUBLICAM."

The Virginia Society voted in 1802 to donate its entire treasury to Washington Academy after deciding to elect no successor members and eventually disband. After the funds were used to support members, their widows and children, approximately $25,000 came to the school in 1848 (but not until the Treasurer of the State of Virginia was prosecuted for embezzlement!). That was a considerable sum and formed one of the cornerstones of Washington and Lee's endowment. (The Virginia Society was reorganized in the 1890s.)

NAME & EAGLE

James Thomas Martin, Counselor

The name, THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI, is registered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to The Society of the Cincinnati for indicating membership in its fraternal organization. Also, the Eagle is registered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to The Society of the Cincinnati for indicating membership in its fraternal association. Those federal registrations grant to the General Society both the right and the responsibility to control uses of the Name and the Eagle.

The General Society encourages its constituent Societies to allow its members to use the Name and/or the Eagle to indicate their membership in The Society of the Cincinnati. However, neither a member nor a constituent society may use the Name or the Eagle to indicate that a member of the Society enjoys collective endorsement or commercial advantage because of his membership.

One example is use of the Name and/or Eagle on the letterhead of a member's stationery. Such stationery must be used only for Society business, and must not be used for personal correspondence, the endorsement of any political issue, commercial activity, such as the sale of a book written by the member, or for the purpose of raising funds for any entity other than the Society. Similarly, the use of the Name and/or Eagle on a personal invitation, or on the website of a member of a constituent society, is prohibited.

Another example is the use of the Eagle on a grave marker or monument. Such use is permitted to indicate that the deceased was a member of The Society of the Cincinnati. Similarly, the use of an Eagle door knocker indicates that the inhabitant is a member of our fraternal association, and the wearing of an Eagle blazer patch indicates the wearer is a member of our fraternal association. Such symbols must be purchased from the General Society, and the use of those symbols must be controlled by the General Society for the benefit of all members.

Let us all remember the standards set by George Washington, who frowned upon self-aggrandizement and the use of association for commercial advantage. If every member keeps George Washington's standards in mind, the General Society should never need to prohibit specific uses of the Name or Eagle by any of its members. Any question regarding the propriety of such uses will be resolved by the Executive Committee.